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For Immediate Release

Clarification on Utah Guard Support to Colorado Flood-Recovery Efforts

DRAPER, Utah – Approximately 50 soldiers of the Utah National Guard's 1457th Engineer Battalion transported 40 vehicles to the Boulder, Colo., area Sept. 26-28 in anticipation of beginning cleanup and reconstruction work on a stretch of U.S. Highway 36 between Lyons and Estes Park, Colo., later this week.

While in Colorado last week, unit leaders surveyed affected areas and prepositioned equipment for an expected early-October return with 120 soldiers to conduct the reconstruction mission, which should last approximately two weeks.

Here is some background information on National Guard funding constraints that may be helpful in understanding the need to conduct this mission in two segments.

Each year, the waning weeks of September and the early weeks of October present funding challenges as Guard officials close out the old fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30, and begin a new fiscal year, which begins on Oct. 1.

Preplanned activities that have been programmed for a particular fiscal year will have funding allocated to cover the costs of those activities. However, unanticipated requests for support, such as responses to natural disasters or other emergencies, can only be supported as funds are reallocated or made available.

Eleventh-hour requests for support that straddle two fiscal years prove to be problematic because they require reallocation of funds from two separate funding sources (one from the old fiscal year and one from the new fiscal year).

To best address the difficulty of straddling fiscal years, as in the case of the Utah Guard's support to Colorado flooding recovery, the decision was made to conduct the mission in two segments by prepositioning equipment during the old fiscal year and returning to carry out the mission in the new fiscal year.

Previous statements by the Utah National Guard that a looming government shutdown was the direct cause for this piecemeal approach were inaccurate.

For questions, please contact Lt. Col. Hank McIntire at (801) 420-4778.